

Message Text

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PARIS FOR OECD

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TAGS: FAO, AORG, IFAD
SUBJECT: ROME, IFAD CATEGORY I /OECD/DAC MEETING

REF: (A) ROME 1762 (B) ROME 7132

SUMMARY: ROME IFAD CATEGORY I GROUP MET JANUARY 30 AT UK EMBASSY
UNDER CHAIRMANSHIP OF PAUL ALPEN TO ORGANIZE ITSELF FOR 1978.
ACTUAL INVITATIONS TO MEETING WERE TO OECD/DAC COUNTRIES AS ALPEN
HAD BEEN REQUESTED DURING FAO CONFERENCE TO ORGANIZE ROME DEVELOPED
COUNTRY GROUP BEFORE HIS TRANSFER TO SOUTH AFRICA. FIVE TOPICS
WERE DISCUSSED: FAO CONFERENCE GENERALLY; COUNTRY INTENTIONS ON
POST-HARVEST LOSSES; FUTURE ORGANIZATION OF GROUP; WORLD FOOD
COUNCIL PREPARATORY MEETING; AND IFAD LENDING POLICY, SEPTEL.
END SUMMARY

1. ALPEN STARTED MEETING BY NOTING THAT DEVELOPED COUNTRIES
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HAD LOST ONE SEAT ON THE FAO PROGRAM COMMITTEE BECAUSE OF FAILURE
TO COORDINATE ON PROBLEM RAISED BY CANDIDACY OF YUGOSLAV
AS CHAIRMAN. NO ONE FOLLOWED UP ON THIS POINT THOUGH THERE
WAS NO OPPOSITION TO ALPEN'S SUGGESTION THAT THE OECD/DAC
COUNTRIES MUST MEET MORE OFTEN,
ESPECIALLY TO COORDINATE ON DEVELOPED COUNTRY CANDIDATES
FOR ELECTED COMMITTEES.

2. SPEADING PERSONALLY, A NUMBER OF PERMREPS EXPRESSED VIEW THAT FAO CONFERENCES INVOLVED TOO MANY STERILE SPEECHES AND THOUGHT GROUP MIGHT CONSIDER WAYS OF SHORTENING CONFERENCE. BELGIUM EMPHASIZED THE IMPORTANCE OF ASSURING THE THEME OF THE CONFERENCE WAS USEFUL AND CLOSELY RELATED TO THE CONFERENCE'S ROLE OF APPROVING THE FAO'S PROGRAM OF WORK AND BUDGET.

3. A REVIEW OF COUNTRIES' POSITIONS ON THE RETURN OF THE POAT-HARVEST LOSSES RESERVE ACCOUNT FUNDS INDICATED THAT ONLY THE U.S. AND CANADA HAD REQUESTED FUNDS BACK. THE FRG WAS STILL WEIGHING ITS DECISION. MOST PREMPREPS HAD FORGOTTEN THE FAN. 31 DEADLINE AND HAD NO INSTURCTIONS, BUT EXPECTED TO LEAVE FUNDS WITH FAO FOR POST-HARVEST LOSSES PROGRAM. AS REPROTED EARLIER, REFTEL (A), THE UK, SWITZERLAND, AND THE NETHERLANDS HAVE INFORMED THE FAO OF THEIR PLANS FOR ADDITIONAL CONTRIBUTIONS.

4. CANADIAN PERMREP AGAIN RAISED HER INSTRUCTIONS ON TIME AND PLACE OF HOLDING WFC PREPARATORY MEETING. REFTEL (B). AGAINS, MOST PERMREPS DID NOT HAVE A POSITION EXCEPT JAPANESE WHO PREFERRED A MEETING IN ROME IN MAY. SEVERAL PERMREPS NOTED THAT SUPPORT FOR WFC COULD BE LOST IF ALL ITS MEETINGS TOOK PLACE AWAY FROM ROME. U.S. REP SUPPORTED PREPCOM IN MEXICO CITY.

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5. ALPEN THEN SUGGESTEDTHAT GROUP SELECT HIS SUCCESSOR, BUT THAT IN THE FUTURE A DISTINCTION BE MAINTAINED BEWWEEN IFAD CATEGORY I AND OECD/DAC GROUPS. THEREFORE, ALPEN SUGGESTED AMB. BAEYENS, THE BELGIAN PERMREP TO THE FAO, CHAIR THE OECD/DAC GROUP AND HAKAYAWA FOR THE JAPANESE EMBASSY CHAIR THE IFAD CATEGORY I GROUP. ALPEN'S SUGGESTIONS WERE ADOPTED UNANIMOUSLY, HAVING BEEN CAREFULLY CONSULTED IN ADVANCE. GARDNER

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